

10 Low-cost/No-cost Tips for Saving Energy and Money

NO COST



1. **Bring on the cold: Wash clothes in cold water.** Unless your clothes are really dirty — choose cold water. It is the most energy efficient and economical choice!



2. **Set low standards: Set your thermostat to 68 degrees Fahrenheit in winter.** For every one degree Fahrenheit you turn your thermostat down, you will use 1% less energy.



3. **Let the sunshine in: Open or close your blinds depending on the season.** Open curtains and blinds in cooler months to allow the sunlight to warm your home. Close them in warmer months to keep rooms cooler.



4. **Save energy and avoid scalding burns: Set water heater temperature to 120 degrees Fahrenheit.** The default temperature setting on water heaters is around 140 degrees. Turning the temperature down to 120 degrees is safer and will save 4% to 22% energy annually.



5. **Close the fireplace damper when not in use.** Keep the damper in your fireplace closed unless a fire is burning. Otherwise your heated or cooled air can escape through the chimney.



6. **Change direction with the seasons.** In the winter, set ceiling fans to a clockwise rotation to circulate warm air. In summer, set fans to counter-clockwise to circulate cool air.

LOW COST



7. **Replace incandescent and CFL lighting with LEDs.** ENERGY STAR® residential LEDs use less energy and last longer than incandescent and CFL lighting.



8. **Plug your TV, cable box and video games into a smart power strip.** Idle electronics suck energy and can contribute to up to 10% of a household's monthly electric usage. Plugging equipment into a smart power strip reduces energy waste and saves money on your electric bill.



9. **Check and change furnace filters regularly.** Clogged or dirty air filters cause your furnace to work hard and waste energy. Clean filters increase efficiency, extend the life expectancy of your furnace and help cut energy costs.



10. **Install high-performance showerheads.** Aerators and high-performance showerheads not only save water, they save on the cost of heating water. Less water used is less water to heat.

BONUS: SAVE MORE

Further increase your comfort—while reducing energy costs—by making these upgrades:



11. **Install an energy-efficient thermostat.** Save energy and money by programing the heating and cooling of your home. Some thermostats can even be controlled in an instant from your phone or tablet.



12. **Seal around leaky doors, windows and ducts.** All of the little leaks in and around your home are equivalent to leaving a 3-foot-by-3-foot window open. Sealing around windows, chimneys and recessed lighting, and installing draft guards under your doors can help save up to 20% on heating and cooling costs.

Contact your local utility for advice on making your home more comfortable and energy efficient.